

## Nevada Early Intervention Summer Family Newsletter

July-August 2016 Volume 6 No 4

### Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral... **HAPPY FOURTH of JULY!!!**

Nevada's Early Intervention **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)** advises and assists Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Dear Parents/Families, this is an opportunity to attend and participate...

#### MEETING NOTICE

#### EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, July 14, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will tentatively be held via Video Conference at the Following Locations:

- **Elko:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Conference Room
- **Las Vegas:** Desert Regional Center  
1391 S. Jones Blvd. [ask for directions at the desk]
- **Reno:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
2667 Enterprise, Conference Room

Check for updates. Meeting agendas are posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about meetings or how to submit public comments, please contact me at [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov) or call \*Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell

\*Central Directory of Resources: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

#### NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office  
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Office: (775) 687-0587  
Fax: (775) 687-0599

**Project ASSIST**  
**1-800-522-0066**  
[ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

Please enjoy the stories shared of families who have "been there and done that!" — See pages 2 & 3.

Special section on Page 4 regarding the progress of Nevada's *State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)*

The ICC membership can be viewed at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>, under "Who is on the ICC?" and then click on **Current Membership**.

### Informed Family Decision-Making Checklist

Evidence based research and the [DEC Recommended Practices](#) inform us that a strong family-professional partnership is essential for early intervention to be successful. Families, early interventionists and service coordinators all bring something important and unique to this partnership, and sometimes expectations of what early intervention is (or isn't) can vary among families and other team members.

If finding ways to participate in decision-making efforts is something you would like to understand better then take a few minutes to review the [Informed Family Decision-Making Checklist \(pdf\)](#) that was developed by the **ECTA Center**. Then you can decide how it may help you with the important work you do as a partner in early intervention. Perhaps it is something you will choose to complete, with other team members, with an entire IFSP team, or simply as a self-assessment to reflect on your own skills and abilities. Direct link: [http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decpr/FAM-2\\_Inf\\_Family\\_Decision.pdf](http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decpr/FAM-2_Inf_Family_Decision.pdf)

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE (FSRS)** that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention. For more information email [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov) or call 1-800-522-0066

# Been there, done that!

**PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a very intensive and innovative national model of leadership training, designed to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy and to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. For information visit [http://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced\\_pip](http://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced_pip)



## Elko NV—Partners in Policymaking Class # 2

"As I settle in to what is sure to be another amazing two day class, I think back to the previous class and secretly hope that this one will be a little less emotional than the last. As I hoped, it was less emotional but just as informational and inspiring as the last.

Day one started off with reintroductions and a few logistics, then it was off to the races with what looked to be a full day of amazing speakers. The first speakers of the day were two lovely well-informed ladies from the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities speaking on the history of developmental disabilities. They shared information to us about the history of Partners in Policymaking, how it is funded, and why it is so important. Also information about how their member board is put together and how they are engaged in advocacy systems around our state. Please check out their website at [www.nevadadddcouncil.org](http://www.nevadadddcouncil.org) for more information.

Next up was Mary Bryant from the University of Nevada Reno's (UNR) Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED). Mary was there to speak to us about rethinking guardianship, and post secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. I was excited to hear Mary present to us, as I had heard her give a presentation on rethinking guardianship last year to the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada. At the time it was a videoconference to Elko from Reno. I could not wait to hear it again and have it really sink in.

Mary's talk on rethinking guardianship is one that really gets you thinking about the future. My little Averii is only five years old but thinking about the best approach for her becoming an adult is so important. Mary stresses that guardianship should not be the choice we make as it has many, many unwanted consequences. Knowing what other options are out there can help everyone involved make the best choice for the future. This not only applies to our young adults with disabilities but our elderly as well.

Mary's other passion includes post secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Yes ladies and gentlemen, college is possible for everyone. Mary recommended that all families start thinking about and saving money for college. There are a good number of college opportunities all over the nation for adults with disabilities. Even our very own UNR has a program called Path to Independence (P2I), and the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) also has a program called F.O.C.U.S. (Forming Occupational and Community Understanding for Success). Mary is the project director for P2I and strongly urges all young adults and families to think about the future and reach for the stars. It is possible and there are options. [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net) can get you started and help find the best college to help young adults with disabilities live their dreams.

Day one was wrapped up by having speakers from our community agencies who had booths at the Partnering for Awareness and Community Education (PACE) event come speak to our Partners in Policymaking class. They were there to tell us about the programs they represented. All age groups from infants to elderly were represented. Speakers from respite care, job find, employment and consumer health assistance were there from our community. Our little rural community really does have a lot to offer it just takes a little more effort to find it. It would've been nice to see more of our community resources at the PACE event, but kudos to the ones that did have a booth and came to talk with our class. Getting the word out about what is offered in our community is so important.

—continued on the next page—

"I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." – Helen Keller

Day two was dedicated to supportive living/home of your own, and supportive and competitive employment. Our presenter for the day was Alexander Cherup. Alex is a return presenter from our first Partners in Policymaking class. We were only too happy to welcome him back, he is well spoken and very educated on the topics he presents, and is the director of transition services for Nevada PEP. He was also joined by his friend and fellow presenter Micah Fieldman. Micah is a vibrant thirty something who lives and works in Syracuse, New York. He is also a self advocate who advocates for others through his personal experience and love for independence.

Micah joined us via Skype from his home in Syracuse. He told us about the many different supports he has in his life that help him live and work independently far from his hometown. Micah's can do attitude is contagious and his perseverance helps break down the barriers many of us have in our mind for people with disabilities. Much of Micah's story can be found on YouTube and on Micah's website - [www.throughthesamedoor.com](http://www.throughthesamedoor.com)

Alex talked to us in depth about supported living and how it has changed over the years. From putting adults with disabilities into asylums, to living on their own with the right supports in place to help them succeed. The workplace is also a place that has changed very much over the years. People with disabilities are standing up and asking for jobs and to be paid fairly. "Sheltered workshops", and subpar wages are soon to be a thing of the past and we will see our fellow human beings working together to get a job done regardless of their disabilities.

I know I have only just brushed the surface of the information that was presented to us over these two days. I would like to encourage you all to think about the future. Please, if there is a class offered in your area on any subject of your interest to help you become a better advocate, don't hesitate to take it. It can only make you a better person and help you be a better advocate. A big thank you to the presenters and to Diana and Travis, from the NCED, who work so hard to organize this for us. THANK YOU!" ~ Janina Easley, ICC Parent Representative

"When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better." - Pauline R. Kezer, parent

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A new statewide Resource in Nevada! **Care Consultation: Caregiver Phone/Email Support**

A **FREE** information and support program for caregivers of individuals of all ages living with a chronic condition or disability. Consultants work with caregivers to identify and better understand issues of concern. **Care Consultation** provides ongoing help to find practical solutions related to concerns about health, care and well being. Offers support to empower, educate and improve the overall wellbeing of the caregiver. You don't have to leave your home to use **Care Consultation**. All sessions take place over the phone or email.

For information or enrollment, call 702-333-1556 or email [cgraham@nevadaseniorservices.org](mailto:cgraham@nevadaseniorservices.org)

Nevada's **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)** provide support, information, and referrals for individuals and families in need of assistance in accessing services and programs that will strengthen and support the family. **FRCs** collaborate with other private and public agencies, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations to assist families to obtain needed services. **FRCs** emphasize community based, collaborative services that are culturally competent, accessible, and flexible. The state is divided into 18 Service Areas. For more information or to find an FRC close to you, call: (702) 486-3527 (Las Vegas) or (775) 684-4000 (Carson City)

Or visit: [http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Programs/FRC/Family\\_Resource\\_Center/](http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Programs/FRC/Family_Resource_Center/)

**FREE....** Participation in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** is open to *all interested* in supporting early intervention. . . **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA list** serve to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: [www.eifamilyalliance.org](http://www.eifamilyalliance.org)



*The purpose of Nevada's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is to improve the statewide system of early intervention services to improve social/emotional outcomes of children participating in services. Research shows healthy social/emotional development of the child is directly linked to healthy supportive interactions and relationships with family members, caregivers and peers. Likewise, the ongoing development of a healthy and effective system of early intervention services requires interaction with, and input from, those most impacted by the system – families of infants and toddlers with disabilities.*

Over the next few newsletters, information will be included to introduce and discuss Nevada's SSIP. This will provide key information about this plan and how it will help to improve early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

### It's About Results

The goal of the Nevada's system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities established under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is to improve results and functional outcomes for all infants and toddlers with disabilities. While the provision of early intervention services must comply with all IDEA requirements, states are also required to demonstrate improved results for infants and toddlers with disabilities participating in early intervention services.

The IDEA requires all states to establish a State Performance Plan (SPP) that evaluates efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part C, describes how the State will improve implementation, and includes measurable and rigorous targets for indicators established by the U.S. Secretary of Education. As part of meeting this requirement for Nevada, the IDEA Part C Office worked with stakeholders, including parent representatives, to develop Nevada's State Systems Improvement Plan (SSIP).

The SSIP is a comprehensive, ambitious, yet achievable multi-year plan for improving results for Nevada's infants and toddlers with disabilities. It is also a critical part of the US Office of Special Education (OSEP) Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system. Development and implementation of the plan includes three (3) phases. Nevada has completed Phases I and II of the SSIP and submitted them to OSEP for approval. Complete copies of Phase I and Phase II of Nevada's SSIP are available on the IDEA Part C Website at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Publications/>.

### SSIP Phases

Year 1 – FFY 2013	Year 2 – FFY 2014	Year 3 – FFY 2015 - 2018
Submitted April 2015	Submitted April 2016	Due February 2017 - 2020
Phase I – Analysis	Phase II – Plan	Phase III – Implementation and Evaluation
<u>Process Included:</u> Analysis of Data; Analysis of infrastructure to support improvement and build capacity; Measurable results(s) for infants and toddlers with disabilities; Developing coherent improvement strategies; and Theory of action	<u>Process Included:</u> Infrastructure development; Support for early intervention service providers implementation of evidence-based practices; and Evaluation Plan	<u>Process Includes:</u> Implementation; and Evaluation



More to Come: Future newsletters will include information on specific components of the SSIP as well as updates on progress and activities to implement the plan. In the meantime, additional information about the SSIP process is available through the many resources at <http://ectacenter.org/topics/ssip/ssip.asp>. The IDEA Part C Office welcomes your interest and input as we move forward with implementing the SSIP. Contact us at [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

—Brenda Bledsoe, Nevada IDEA Part C Coordinator  
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/PartC/>

— For Families & Professionals —



**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY**

*There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!*

**"The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child's Life"** (includes CD-ROM) Transforming the financial planning presentations they've

given to families across the country into a thorough, easy-to-read resource, the well-known authors (who also have family members with special needs) give parents a chronological guide for each stage from birth to adulthood. Parents will get comprehensive advice and strategies on how to address:

- *financial factors*—including mortgages and other expenses, insurance policies, investments, and savings
- *legal factors*—such as conducting estate planning, weighing guardianship with less restrictive alternatives, and creating a Special Needs Trust to ensure a child's future
- *government factors*—identifying and supplementing government benefits, such as residential services, supported employment, and respite care
- *family and support factors*—such as the family's values, the parent's careers, sibling considerations, and contributions of extended family members
- *emotional factors*—such as dealing with both positive and negative feelings, staying connected with others, and using strong emotions to fuel advocacy

**"Laying Community Foundations for Your Child with a Disability: How to Establish Relationships That Will Support Your Child..."** This practical guide shows families how to establish a

network of people who can provide lasting relationships for their children, and the importance of beginning the process as early as possible in the life of their child. If you're the parent of a child with a disability, this book is of critical importance to you. Laying Community Foundations emphasizes the need to begin now to build a caring community of people who will provide emotional support and guidance for your child throughout their life. Chapters discuss: • how to assess your child's needs & interests • how to navigate the human side of estate planning • how to foster long-term relationships for your child • where to look for potential relationships • how to ask people for a commitment • independent living arrangements.

**"The Common Sense Guide to Your Child's Special Needs: When to Worry, When to Wait, What to Do"** – If you have a child who is struggling, who is not meeting her/his developmental milestones,

Dr. Pellegrino clearly explains to parents what are the next steps to take. – Section 1 entitled "Understanding Your Child," goes into details about common areas of concern – Section 2 entitled "Special Children, Special Needs," focuses on hearing, vision, and sensory problems. Also, Dr. Pellegrino has a chapter on Special Medical Problems where he gives information on basic health care of children with special needs.

**"The Early Intervention Guidebook for Families and Professionals: Partnering for Success"** –

This practical guide is essential reading for both professionals and families of infants and toddlers with, or at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities. The Early Intervention Guidebook shows what early intervention looks like when it is based on current research, policies, and best practices. It focuses on how families and professionals can collaborate effectively so that young children learn, grow, and thrive. Specific components of early intervention evaluation and assessment, program planning, intervention implementation, service coordination, and transition are discussed in every chapter.

With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, contact **Project ASSIST** toll free at **1-800-522-0066** or send an email to [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov).

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

**Wrightslaw - Special Needs: Planning for the Future—**

We receive many questions about future planning for kids with disabilities from parents, relatives, and health care providers. If you are the parent of a child with special needs, you need to educate yourself about the many options available. It is never too early to start planning for your child's future. – See more at: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/future.plan.index.htm>

**The Arc's Center for Future Planning—**

Planning ahead can help guide a person with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) to lead a good life as independently as possible. A plan is important throughout all stages of life and especially in the future after the parent or caregiver is no longer able to provide support.

To better serve families and individuals with I/DD in future planning, "Build Your Plan" is a tool that enables families to create an account and begin to build their plans.

<https://futureplanning.thearc.org/>

**NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

**NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. Families should call for more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Please call: 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or [GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov).
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: [info@nvhandsandvoices.org](mailto:info@nvhandsandvoices.org)

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.

**SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

- **Parent meeting** for families of children (any age) with Prader Willi Syndrome, at NEIS. Contact Erica Magana (Bilingual) at 702-486-9265 or [emagana@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:emagana@adsd.nv.gov), or Shirley Farkas at: 702-486-9263 or [sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov)

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

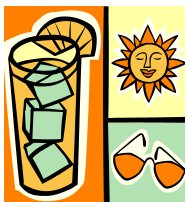
⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups.** Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or [rlucero@tmgnv.com](mailto:rlucero@tmgnv.com)

**EI program information — [http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early\\_Intervention\\_Programs/](http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/)**

**Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative:** By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent Facebook ([www.nvparents.com/fb](http://www.nvparents.com/fb)) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, parenting questions, community resources and events, etc. at [www.nvparents.com](http://www.nvparents.com).

The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)



**Nevada's Central Directory** website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful websites and a Frequently Asked Questions page.  
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

